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THE WORKER WATCHES

New Commission To Study Industrial Problems Must Suggest Practical
Remedies and Parliament Must Act.

Senator Robertson, Minister of Labor, has been the consistent friend of the workers. If he has not done all that the workers expect a Minister of Labor to do in these days, it is because no Minister of Labor under our present capitalistic and opportunist form of government could do more than he has done.

What he has lacked has been the support of a substantial labor element within Parliament itself.

We do not mean the sort of labor element that makes a patronizing pose from some lofty pinnacle behind which the same old wirepullers work the same old game of "putting things over" on the dear workers.

We mean the real men, the workers who have lived with workers, worked with workers, worked — perhaps starved — under a bulldozing boss whose object in life was to whip as much out of the worker for as little as he dared to give; men who know from personal contact what unemployment means, what worry about rents, grocers' bills and children's boots means — men who are from the ranks and who are so inspired that they cannot rest until the best that is in them is dedicated to the happiness of the people, and to that alone.

That labor element is in the

making. Its seeds are in Parliament now. Soon it will be a powerful growth. There is nothing problematical about it. It shall be so.

He who would think differently is slipping behind the times. He who would try to retard its coming is digging his own grave. Senator Robertson is a work-

er from amongst the workers. He knows, much better than most of his parliamentary colleagues know, the aims and needs of the worker. He also knows the determination and power of the worker to blast the bottom out of anything that will stand between him and his own conception of what is liberty and justice.

Hence the new Commission announced by Senator Robertson which will shortly tour the country to study the relations of employer and employed and the possibilities of joint industrial control. Let us give that Commission a chance. We know that Commissions are slippery things, stop-gaps, and that the reports of many Commissions go into safety-deposit vaults and are never heard of again. But the workers are watching this Commission much more closely than they ever watched Commissions before.

This Commission will have to make clean-cut decisions. It will have to "scrap" old ideas of place and privilege, old forms and customs. It will have at least to be abreast of the latest labor movements in Great Britain, of the fundamentals of the findings of the International Labor Conference, of the expressed desires of the workers of the United States and Canada. Having done so, it will not only be the duty but the necessity of Parliament to give effect to the findings of the Commission without too much quibbling and fancy phrasing.

Give the Commission a chance. There is enough solid worth in its composition as announced to justify patience and the expectation of the square deal. Heaven help the Government that will try to chloroform or juggle its report — today!



SENATOR G. D. ROBERTSON, Minister of Labor,
to whom is due the formation of the new Capital-Labor Commission.



The Government have now announced the personnel of their Commission upon Industrial Relations. It consists of Chief Justice Mathers, of Manitoba, chairman; Senator Smeaton-White and Mr. Charles Harrison, M.P., for North Bay as representatives of the public. Mr. Carl Riordon and Mr. F. Pauze, both of Montreal, as representatives of the employers; and Mr. Tom Moore, Ottawa and J. W. Bruce, of Toronto, representatives of the employees. There could be many improvements upon this Commission and at first sight it looks scarcely equal to the task which confronts it.

Chief Justice Mathers has, it is true, presided over some arbitration concerning wage disputes and has a fairly good record as a Judge, but his democratic sympathies are not pronounced and he has never been famed for any special interest in industrial questions. If the editorials in the "Montreal Gazette", which he owns, are any guidance Senator Smeaton-White is not likely to favor the innovations which the Whitley report favors. Mr. Harrison, M.P., for North Bay, is the one so-called labor representative in the Unionist Party. He is an honest, painstaking man, but has hitherto cut not the slightest figure in the Parliament and has signally failed to voice the sentiments of labor on several critical occasions. Mr. Riordon is reputed to be a capitalist of more than ordinary progressive ideas and of Mr. Pauze little is known; one French Canadian representative was inevitable. Mr. Moore, of Ottawa, is the well-

known President of the Trades and Labor Congress and his point of view will be more or less conservative, but he can be relied upon to plead for the Whitley Report. Mr. Bruce, of Toronto, is a much more radical person than Mr. Moore. He belongs to the social democratic party and is the only member of the Commission who would be at all likely to come near voicing the sentiments of Western Labor, which is to-day poles apart from the movement in the East. There will undoubtedly be considerable dissatisfaction in the West at the failure to select one or two representatives from that region.

Moments of Interest

The Senate rarely provides much material for comment or criticism; it is, according to one view, a drowsy haven of rest for disinterested patriots, and to other eyes a political workhouse, where faithful partisans who have lost or cannot carry their seats are enabled to quarter themselves on the country and scan at intervals the evidence of the marital infidelities of their fellow citizens. But even the Senate has its moments of interest and business, it never rises to the level of excitement. There are some able members, no great host to be sure, on its benches, but men like Senator Dandurand or J. S. MacLennan have a grasp of public affairs, which few of the present Cabinet possess and are always worthy of attention when they speak. On Tuesday, the 10th, a comparatively new member of the Upper Chamber, Senator Planta, of British Columbia, stirred the tranquil waters by calling the attention of the House to the fact that there are foreign agencies in Canada whose activities are calculated to create a condition of labor unrest throughout the country.

Horrified Colleagues

Senator Planta lived some time in Australia and has obviously given some thought to industrial matters. He approves of the Government's proposal of an Industrial Commission, but fears that the evil spirits cannot be stilled at this late date. He horrified his colleagues by reading out extracts from the statements of Mr. Winch, President of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council to the effect that there could be no reconciliation between capital and labor until rent, interests and profits were eliminated and that he was prepared to utilize any means which presents itself to eliminate capitalists. This bold evowal was made before a Commission in investigating the dispute in the Coughlan shipyards and so appalled Judge Murphy, the Chairman, that he declared if this was the official voice of labor, his enquiry might as well cease at once. Planta had further revelations to make of the iniquities of the Laborists of Vancouver—how they had sent a resolution of greet-

ings to the Russian Soviet Government and the Spartacists in Germany, how, after the manner of patrician ladies, they had declined to receive Mr. Peter Wright, whom Mr. Planta believed to be a prominent worker for social reform in Britain, and did not know to be suspect everywhere as the hireling agent of the Lloyd-Georgian Government. The speaker brought a ray of comfort to his frightened brethren when he told how the Great War Veterans were still on the side of sanity and had dealt rigorously at Cranbrook with some wandering delegate from the Calgary Convention. The Senator emphasized his belief that the labor troubles were due to alien agitators, but he produced not an iota of evidence to prove his contention. He obviously filled his colleagues with great gloom. If the Mathers Commission does not devise a new social order, which it obviously will not, they foresee Soviets and all manner of dreadful things.

Religious Squabble

During the week, there were two of these appalling religious squabbles which benefit no single individual in Canada, but merely serve to embitter public life and hamper the reasonable discussion of vital political and economic questions. The first arose over the famous raid on the Guelph Novitiate. Sir Sam Hughes charged the Government, particularly Mr. Doherty, with shielding Catholic students therein from Military Service Act. He and his friends waxed very wroth over an apology which General Mewburn had offered to the head of the College for the somewhat arbitrary conduct of one of his subordinates. Liberal Opposition Catholics, naturally, rose to defend their co-religionists and the battle raged for many hours. Nothing new was said and much precious time was wasted. In the end, Mr. Meighen, as Acting Minister of Justice, promised a Commission of Inquiry, which will give fees for many lawyers and come to nothing. The Ontario Orangemen do not like Mr. Doherty and the debate was aimed at him. The second squabble came in Thursday's debate, wherein, Sir Sam, once again to the fore, demanded heavy and uniform penalties for defaulters. There were the usual changes about Quebec's slackness and the leniency of the judges there. Most of the Unionist speakers wanted disfranchisement and heavy fines but Dr. Michael Clark made a good plea for tolerance.

Tuesday, April 8th, was largely consumed in discussing the estimates of the Public Works Department, of mail subsidies and steamship subventions. Mr. Carvill came in for bitter attack from some Unionists because he had been misguided enough to award some contracts to Liberals. The abolition of patronage was supposed to have legalised such awful practices, but Mr. Carvill is too much of an obvious Liberal still to be popular with his ancient enemies and some day

soon he and they will part company to their mutual satisfaction. Mr. Carvill is in many respects sincere radical, he hates exploitation, cant and snobbery in all their manifestations, but unfortunately his views upon labor relations and public ownership are sadly primitive.

One Big Union Idea

On Thursday, the 10th, Mr. Hocken at question time attempted to put the case of certain Toronto letter-carriers, who had served overseas, against the Civil Service Commission before the House, but the Speaker ruled him out of order. Mr. Archambault inquired if the Government was aware of the decision of the Calgary Labor Convention in favor of the One Big Union idea and if they meditated any steps. Sir Thomas, who unlike Mr. Arthur Balfour, evidently reads the daily papers, had seen an account in the press but was not otherwise interested to date. Mr. Rowell's Federal Health Bill was considered in Committee and reported. There is a decided danger that it may set up in our midst a medical autocracy which will be as presumptuous in its attitude to the general public as certain church organizations are and there may be scope for political manipulation. It is a pure piece of paternalism and while it contains some good features, it will not begin to remedy the real troubles of Canada, which are economic. There is a report now that Mr. Calder will take over the Health Department and restore Immigration to Mr. Meighen. Mr. Rowell's heart is said to be set on representing Canada in the Imperial Cabinet in London and if that chance comes his way, the health of the Canadian people must needs take its chance in turn. Sir Thomas White sought a vote of credit for the enormous sum of \$350,000,000 of which nearly \$300,000,000 was for military and demobilization purposes. He stated that our war expenditure now exceeded fifteen hundred millions. The balance of the vote was to be used to provide credits to Roumania and other countries for manufactured exports. The opposition were properly critical of the Roumanian transaction; Mr. S. W. Jacobs declared that the credit of a country which might any day be infected by a Bolshevik revolution was far from safe and Mr. Pedlow maintained firstly that excessive prices were being paid for a woollen order which Roumania had utilized the credits for here and that an unnecessary commission had been paid to a certain Mr. Yapp, a representative of the woollen manufacturers for his services. Export trade is very fine but if subsidies, which the provision of state credit amounts to are given to send our products freely abroad, there is scant hope of any reduction in the cost of living at home. Butter, for instance, is mounting steadily to outrageous prices but our cold storage firms have large quantities in stock and are selling it a fancy prices to

WEIGHTY WORDS

Let us all cultivate the sense of society. Let us think of the great sacrifice made by the young soldiers. They gave their lives freely and selflessly. They saved us. Are we ingrates? Are we so mean that we must squander their legacy in bitterness and hate and greed? Must we dishonor their stainless memory by squalid squabbling over the heritage which they bought with their blood? Is all our nobility, all our chivalry, all our patriotism buried in Flanders?

—James Douglas.

famished Europe, while our poor famish for it. The Railway Board has declined to interfere with the railways' adoption of daylight saving and Parliament despite its own decision now works by the new summer time.

It Needs Scanning

On Friday, the 11th, Dr. J. D. Reid, the Minister of Railways, introduced the Government's bill to fix the conditions of administration for the national railways. The bill is an amazing production and deserves very careful scanning by the public. It proposes that the management of the National railway shall be in the hands of a Board of Directors who shall be appointed by the Governor-in-Council, which is camouflage for the Cabinet and particularly for the Minister of Railways. The board will apparently be under complete control of the Minister; they will have ample powers of discretion in expenditure and policy and Parliament will have no real check upon them as it will only be apprised of the expenditure in the budget of the year following the spending. Mr. Cahill and other members of the Opposition brought every effective criticism to bear on the proposals and pointed out that the Government's plan left full scope for all the evils that had been devilled railway administration by the State in other countries. A large majority of the directors were business men with heavy personal pre-occupations who had no particular knowledge of railway problems. They would inevitably leave things largely in the hands of the few railway experts on the board, who in the case of the Canadian National Railway, to-day, are largely survivors from the MacKenzie-Mann regime. It was freely charged that the latter pair of worthies had still to close contact with the railway. It was very amusing to see the Minister of Railways, who used to be strongly suspect of undue subservience to the C. N. R. arising with hectic cheeks and waving arms to defend in great indignation, Mr. D. B. Hanna and other C. N. R. directors, from what he thought were the aspersions of Mr. Cahill. It is a perfect tragedy that an incompetent political schemer like Mr. J. D. Reid should have charge of this important department at the present time. As regards his outburst, it was felt that "the lady did protest too much". He has certainly devised an evil plan for the government railways. The only safe course would be to select a Commission of practical railway men, appoint them for a period of ten years, like the Railway Commission and make them responsible to Parliament for a financial accounting. Let them be left a free hand in administration. Dr. Reid enjoyed one distinction—his railway resolution was all in one gigantic sentence of 1,300 words, which probably constitutes a record and made the content almost unintelligible. But would that poor English composition be the only crime of our rulers!

HOW THE SOLDIER SAW THE WAR

With Acknowledgement to the London Nation.

Now that the fighting has ceased, it is possible to consider with something of detachment the events of the last four years. We can throw the mind back to the early days, to the opinions that were then held, and see how far they have been justified. On the causes of the war and its process it is vain to dwell. They are so involved that it will take two generations to unravel them. They provide opportunity for little save conjecture; but on one point we can speak with a knowledge that is denied posterity, and that is—the psychology of war.

For in what has it been urged that this war differs so greatly from every preceding war? Surely in that it was the war of righteousness. "Not for passion or for power", clean-handed we went into the contest. The whole nation was aflame with ideals. In the great need we had proved ourselves worthy of our high destiny. This has been the constant theme of politicians; it has inspired the facile enthusiasms of the Press, and the thundering invective of the pulpit. Through the light of this rhetoric that spirit of war glimmered like some rose-red revelation of the Grail, a universal panacea, the cure for all mortal ills. "Purged through fire", Ordeal by battle", "a nation that has found its soul," these have been the catchwords; and yet how false, how patently false! Doubtless the civilian felt as he spoke. But for the fighting man this war has been as every other war. It has opened to him no sudden influx of ideals; instead of bringing him face to face with reality, which is another word for the spiritual conception of things, it has coarsened him, making him consider human life as a thing of little value. His daily work has been placed on the lowest and most elemental level; he has lived from day to day; satisfied as long as he had food to eat and a bed to sleep upon. We have seen countless pictures glorifying this routine of filth and squalor, we have been told that the inner flame rises superior to the external and incidental surroundings. But that is exactly what has not happened. Soldier after soldier has felt the soul-side of him being gradually immersed; his susceptibilities have been deadened. Henri Barbusse, in the one honest piece of fiction this war has produced, draws with an immense sympathy the moral and intellectual degradation of battle. Individuality is lost. Politicians may talk of the ideals at stake, but to the soldier their fine phrases are without meaning.

"To-night he's in the pink, but soon he'll die; And still the war goes on, he don't know why."

It is in that spirit that men have gone to their death, dazed and miserable, conscious only of their own suffering, filled with regret, and a longing for the calm days of peace. And for those who survived courage sank to an habitual disregard of danger; they came to see war as the ordinary course of things. They merely transported their own values into the changer conditions; they were no longer disgusted by filth.

And that is the most terrible thing of all. The first time a man goes into action he is horrified by what he sees. Through the cold of a wet night he stumbles along a duck-board track; on all sides of him are strewn signs of conquest, broken dugouts, half-buried guns, men, bits of men, horses. And with morning comes the blind terror of the barrage; the whistle, and he plunges forward, frightened and gasping, among the unburied dead. But he will get used to it; sooner or later his nerves will go, he will jump at the least sound, will duck when an "Archie" goes over; but that first horror will pass. He will look at the dead body casually, in a cold-blooded sort of way, wondering how long it took to die.

There is no sadder experience than to stand at night a few hundred yards in the wake of carnage. The sense of desolation, the very lights fling across it unreal, fictitious shadows. The brown stretch of water-logged shell-holes seems unending. And among the scattered bodies of the dead dim figures are seen foraging the broken bodies, searching for souvenirs, diving their hands into pockets, preying on carrion. They are no longer shocked by the conditions of war, but are turning them to their own advantage. The scientific slaughter of human beings has become for them the natural setting for their daily life.

Alex. Waugh.

ENDORSE "ONE BIG UNION"

The Vancouver Trades and Labor Council at a meeting last week adopted the principle of the test of "One Big Union", and voted in favor of a strike to enforce the six-hour day. However, the action of this body is not final, as it will be necessary for the rank and file of labor to vote on these questions before they are decided. A referendum will be taken on these two questions, the vote to be returned by May 10.

THE Canadian Railroader WEEKLY

The Official Organ of the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada

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MEMBERS OF INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION ARE NAMED

The commission to investigate industrial relations will consist of two representatives each of employers, of the employed and of the public. Chief Justice Mathers, of Manitoba, will be chairman. The members of the commission are: Chief Justice Mathers, chairman; Senator White, (President of "Gazette Publishing Co., Montreal) and Charles Harrison, M.P., (Railwayman) representing the public; Carl Riordon, (President of the Riordon Pulp and Paper Company, Montreal), and T. Pauze, (lumberman), Montreal, representing the employers; Tom Moore (President of the Trades and Labor Congress), and J. W. Bruce, (member of the Labor Appeal Board, Toronto), representing the employees. Thos. Bengough, Toronto, will be secretary of the commission.

THE TARIFF COMMISSION

Dr. Michael Clark, M.P., Thinks It Would Be Mischievous; Western Manufacturer Approves of Main Idea.

We intend to let our Tariff Commission idea get all the airing necessary, as we believe that only by a fair presentation of the case, for and against, can we show the proper value of it. This week, therefore, we are giving prominence to extracts from two letters, the writers of which are frankly opposed. In passing we may say that, of course, we expect the politicians to be opposed. Extracts from letters follow:—

Strongly Opposed.

From Michael Clark, M.P. for Red Deer:—

"I am most absolutely opposed to the appointment of a permanent Tariff Commission. Such a body would in my judgment be mischievous in the extreme, and its appointment would be an abdication by Government and Parliament of duties properly devolving upon themselves."

Approves Main Idea.

From T. R. Deacon, President, The Manitoba Bridge & Iron Works, Limited, Winnipeg:—

"Generally speaking I agree with the main idea of your proposal whilst as to the working out of some of the details I think they would require modifications in some respects. The general idea is all right."

1. That a permanent Tariff Commission be established.
2. That the elements of society deeply interested shall each have a representative on this Commission.
3. That the Commission shall consist of five members.
 - (a) The manufacturers shall nominate one member.
 - (b) The Trades Unisnists, through their executive on the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, in conjunction with the executive of the Railroad Brotherhoods, shall nominate one member.
 - (c) The agricultural class, through the Council of Agriculture, shall nominate one member.
 - (d) The Government in power at the time of the appointment of the Commission shall nominate one member who shall be known as the Government Revenue member.
 - (e) The Government in power at the time of the appointment of the Commission shall nominate one member as a tariff statistician.
 - (f) A department of scientific research, capable of analyzing processes of costs and manufacture shall be operated under the authority and jurisdiction of the Commission.
 - (g) The Chairman of the Commission shall always be the statistician.
 3. Each member of the Commission shall receive a salary of not less than \$15,000.00 a year and shall have the selection of a qualified statistician and staff.

Hearty Approval

From F. M. Kimball, Business Systems, Limited, Toronto:—

"Would advise that this editorial meets with our hearty approval, and is in accordance with our own ideas."

Bound to Fail

From Charles Leclerc, Editor "Le Prévost":—

"The tariff question is, in its very nature, a political one; any effort, from any source, to remove it from the political sphere, is bound to failure.

"The people of Canada stand for democracy. We have had already too much government by commission. The Commission you urge the establishment of is kaisersim, nothing else. In such a move, the people will see nothing else but a trick to deprive them of their sovereignty, and to play the game of politicians and capitalists.

"The next move might be to name a Commission of three members, appointed one by the manufacturers, one by the Trades-Unionists, one by agricultural classes, with power to administer the whole business of the country. They would, of course, as the proposed tariff commission, be appointed for life. And that would do away altogether with what you call "party politics". The result would be "stability and progress", "sufficient protection" to all, no "disturbances", "genuine benefit" to the entire country.

"Believe me, it is easy to fool some people some times; but mighty hard to fool everybody all the time."

I WILL RISE

By Angela Morgan.

I will rise when the workers rise,
I will see with the workers' eyes.
Why should I softly turn in bed
If they rise up when the sun is red?
Stern are the roads their feet must

go
Through parching heat or stinging
snow;
They sweep the whole world fair
for me—

And as they see, I, too, must see;
And as they know, I, too, must
know—

I will rise when the workers rise!

* * *

I will rise to-day at the hour the
workers keep—

I will whip my soul from sleep.
How may I know their cause is

right
If I sleep on till the sun is white?
Their woe I, too, must understand
Whose toil hath made my fairyland.

My back shall bend beneath their
strain,
Mine their courage and mine their

pain,
Mine their patience and mine their
skill,
Mine the push of their splendid will

* * *

I will rise to-day as the vigorous
workers rise,
I shall see with the workers' eyes..
Flint-cold pavements and icy streets,
Stones that clatter with hard hoof

beats,
Clanging ears and hurrying throngs,
Ways of danger where death be
longs:—

The forge, the loom, the sweatshop
grim—

All these, all these to share with him
Who weaves my magic world for
me:
And as he sees, I, too, shall see.

* * *

I will rise to-day as the militant
workers must,

For I know their cause is just
I who suffer and I who bleed,
My tongue shall plead as theirs shall
plead.

Mine their courage and mine their
good,
Mine their union in brotherhood.
O ye, who sleep in your soft white

bed,
Rise up, rise up when the sun is red.
Go bravely forth as the workers go,
For knowledge cometh only so!

WHAT WILL IT MATTER?

What will it matter in a little while
That for a day,
We met and gave a word, a touch,

a smile,

Upon the way?

What will it matter whether hearts
were brave
And lives were true;

That you gave me the sympathy I
crave,
As I gave you?

These trifles? Can it me they make
or mar
A human life?

Are souls as lightly weighed as
riches are
By love or strife?

Yea, yea, a look the fainting heart
may break
Or make it whole;

And just one word, if said for love's
sweet sake.
May save a soul.

May Riley Smith.

VOLUNTARY FLORISTS

With the advent of Spring, eight hundred gardens along the line of the C. P. R. demand the attention of the Agents and Section foremen and other employees who take an interest in making the stations attractive. The Floral Committee at headquarters in Montreal has spent much thought in simplifying and facilitate this work of beautifying, and by establishing perennials and shrubs where possible, have made it possible for a Station Agent to have a world of lovely blossom with very little cultivation. These, however, must often be supplemented by annuals, supplementing the perennial display, so a carefully selected package of seeds is made up suitable for planting in any climate from St. John to Vancouver or from Windsor to Saskatoon. The seeds comprise Rochia (Summer Cypress), California Poppy, Double Sinnia, Sweet Alyssum, Phlo, Dwarf and Tall Nasturtium, and Giant Mignonette, which apparently is a great favorite with the employees wives. It is interesting to note that this Station garden work is done voluntarily by the C. P. R. men in their own time—the Company providing liberal prices which are keenly completed by those interested.

4. The members of the Commission to be appointed for life, subject only to the recall of the organization by which they have been chosen.

5. The Commission shall hold daily sessions, excepting on legal holidays.

6. The Commission shall have power to fix the tariffs, to examine the books and to ascertain the costs and selling price with reference to goods of any manufacturer seeking tariff protection.

7. The tariff fixed by the Commission shall be final and unassailable unless subsequently changed by action of the Commission or a special act of Parliament.

The Way The Wind Blows

CHILD ILLITERACY

An alarming percentage of illiteracy among certain groups of working children is disclosed in figures made public by the children's bureau of the United States department of labor. These figures are based on the experience of the bureau in issuing federal certificates to children going to work in five states where state certificates were not acceptable for the purposes of the former federal child labor law.

More than one-fourth, or 5,294, of the 19,546 between 14 and 16 years of age to whom certificates were issued could not sign their own names legibly.

In the five states where 18,379 white children between 14 and 16 were certificated, but 742 had reached the eighth grade in school. Of 1,166 colored children only 40 reached the eighth grade.

In other words, 96 per cent of the white children and 97 per cent of the colored children granted certificates had not reached the eighth grade.

* * * "DUMMY" DIRECTORS

Editor Baine of the Shoe Workers' Journal applauds the Massachusetts state federation of labor for refusing to indorse a bill that would permit corporations to provide for the representation of employees on their boards of directors.

The labor editor suggests that employers permit trade unionists to run their own affairs before they (the unionists) are invited to share in the management of the business of some one else.

The bill was introduced in the state legislature by Senator Loring, an executive of the Plymouth Cordage company. In support of the bill, the law-maker said:

"I have tried many experiments. I have tried profit sharing, bonuses, workmen's committees, and all those things, and every one of them failed when time of stress came."

Editor Baine calls attention to the employer's failure to mention collective bargaining.

"It is to be expected that an executive committee of the board of directors would run the business and the employee directors would be called in only on certain occasions, principally when it was desired to

impress them with some idea in the firm's interest relating to its labor policies. Such directors would be selected by the management of the business or by the stockholders, and would have to be perfectly acceptable to the stockholders and to the directors."

Editor Baine predicts a new crop

tional Union of Railway Men of Great Britain and Ireland, at a recent conference of employers and employees.

The trade unionist said he was deputed to make the following observation for the triple alliance:

"The organized workers of Great Britain have made up their minds to obtain for themselves an increasing share of the wealth which their labor has produced and produces. The workers of the three-fold organization are determined to shorten materially the hours of labor in their respective industries. They are dis-

which many branches of Canadian industry will be affected, is now in progress.

Probably the biggest part of the new movement, which is now fully under way, is that of the Marine Federation, in which all the shipbuilding plants, marine engineering shops, and allied concerns from Halifax to Port Arthur, will be concerned. Owners of 18 to 20 shipbuilding yards, and about the same number of engineering shops, and representative delegates of all the trades will meet inside the next twenty days to complete the forming of a marine federation that will establish uniform working conditions and rates of pay for all the plants concerned, and these will be binding on all who are members of the federation.

The plants concerned employ between 15,000 and 18,000 men and are situated in Montreal, Quebec, Three Rivers, Sorel, Lauzon, Kingston, Collingwood, Midland, Toronto, Ottawa, Bridgewater, Welland, Halifax and Port Arthur.

Another aspect or part of the movement is to form all the metal working shops into one big council, and raises the status of the workers who toil in them.

A further part of the movement will be to improve the position of the skilled worker in the locomotive manufacturing plants of Montreal and Kingston, while an effort will also be made to deal with the farm implement business as an industry and have the workers therein organized accordingly.

* * * AT SCHOOL TILL 18

AN ITALIAN SLAP AT THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The medley is composed of Russians, Poles, Bohemians, Roumanians, Germans, Hungarians, Croatians, Servians, and Montenegrins.

—L'Asino (Rome).

of these schemes which are intended satisfied with the system of society "not to solve the labor problem, but to circumvent it."

* * * LABOR NOT COMMODITY

Labor is not a commodity and it demands that it shall become a real partner in industry, is the declaration of the triple alliance, consisting of the unions of railway workers, miners and transport workers.

This statement was made by James H. Thomas, member of parliament and general secretary Na-

which treats their labor power as a mere commodity to be bought, sold and used as though they were machine-like units in the process of wealth production and distribution, and they therefore demand that they shall become real partners in industry, jointly sharing in determining conditions and management."

* * * 18,000 MAY UNITE

One of the biggest movements—or rather series of movements—in



CO-OPERATION, CO-PARTNERSHIP, INDUSTRIAL COUNCILS

By Francis HANKIN, Honorary Secretary, Canadian Reconstruction Groups.
(Continued.)

The schemes recommended in the report are intended not merely for the treatment of industrial problems when they become acute, but also, and more especially, to prevent their becoming acute.

The first report dealt only with those industries where organization was well developed on the part of both employers and employed. A second report dealt with two other classes of industries as follows:

Group B, comprising those industries in which either as regards employers and employed, or both, the degree of organization, though considerable, is less marked than in group A.

Group C, consisting of industries in which organization is so imperfect, either as regards employers or employed or both, that no association can be said adequately to represent those engaged in the industry.

For Group B, it recommended that the proposals of the first report should in their main lines, be applied to those which are found to be relatively well organized. Here a National Industrial Council might be formed, but one or two official representatives might assist in the initiation of the Council, and continue to serve for a time in a advisory capacity only. They would remain only at the wish of the Council itself.

It is possible that in some districts, organization might not be sufficiently complete to permit of the establishment of District Councils, but this should not prevent such councils being established where the state of organization warrants such a step. In the case of the unorganized or poorly organized districts, Trade Boards might be appointed.

In the industries covered by Group

C, it is recommended that Trade Boards with extended powers should be instituted until organization should permit the formation of District or National Industrial Councils.

The Trade Boards were originally intended to secure the establishment of a minimum standard of wages in certain unorganized industries. It is suggested that the functions of these Boards should be extended so that they might deal not only with minimum rates or wages, but with hours of labor, and questions cognate to wages and hours, and that they should also be in a position to initiate and conduct enquiries on all matters affecting the industry. These Trade Boards would consist of representatives of employers and employed with "appointed" members. The amended Trade Boards Act of last year gives the necessary powers.

Under the proposals above described, there would be broadly two classes of industries — those with National Councils and those with Trade Boards.

The Committee also issued a supplementary report on Works Committees, in which it was suggested that these Committees should not be permitted to interfere with those questions such as wages and hours of work which should properly be left to the National and District Committees, but that the Works Committees should concern themselves with questions affecting the daily life and comfort in, and the success of the business. The purpose of a Works Committee is to establish and maintain a system of co-operation in all these workshop matters. These Committees should not, in constitution or methods of working discourage Trade organizations.

In the report dealing with Conciliation and Arbitration, it is recommended that conciliation and arbitration should be voluntary.

The question whether awards and agreements should be made enforceable by means of monetary or other penalties was examined exhaustively by the Industrial Council in an enquiry commenced in 1912, and the Whitley Committee concur generally in the views expressed in the report made by the Council in 1913, to the effect that, while it is to the interests of both employers and workpeople and the community generally that industrial agreements should be duly fulfilled, in the long run this object is more likely to be secured by an increased regard for moral obligation, respect for an instructed public opinion, and reliance on the principles of mutual consent, rather than by the establishment of a system of monetary penalties.

The final report is a summary of the previous reports, and deserves quotation at some length, as it enables one easily to comprehend the scope of the recommendations of the Whitley Committee. It is to be noted that five members of the Committee add a postscript that the proposals while being likely to lead to more amicable relations between employers and workpeople, are not regarded as capable of affecting an entirely satisfactory settlement of industrial problems:

2. We have presented four Reports. In our first Report on Joint Industrial Councils (Cd. 8606) we recommend the establishment for each of the principal well-organized industries of a triple form of organization, representative of employers and employed, consisting of Joint Industrial Councils, Joint District Councils, and Works Committees, each of the three forms of organization being linked up with the others so as to constitute an organization covering the whole of the trade, capable of considering and advising upon matters affecting the welfare of the industry, and giving to labor a definite and enlarged

share in the discussion and settlement of industrial matters with which employers and employed are jointly concerned.

3. In our second Report on Joint Industrial Councils (Cd. 9002) we proposed for trades where organization is at present very weak or non-existent an adaptation and expansion of the system of Trade Boards working under an amended Trade Boards Act; and for trades in which organization is considerable, but not yet general, a system of Joint Councils with some Government assistance which may be dispensed with as these industries advance to the stage dealt with in our first Report.

In the second Report we proposed also a plan whereby the Joint Council of an Industry, when it has agreed upon a minimum standard of working conditions for those employed in the industry may have the means of making those conditions general in any district or over the whole country.

Taking our first and second Reports together, they constitute a scheme designed to cover all the chief industries of the country and to equip each of them with a representative joint body capable of dealing with matters affecting the welfare of the industry in which employers and employed are concerned, and of caring for the progressive improvement of the industry as an integral part of the national prosperity.

6. In our fourth Report (Cd. 9099) we have made recommendations on Conciliation and Arbitration. Replying in the main on the methods built up by agreement within the various industries and looking to an expansion and improvement of these methods.

Resulting from the habit of dealing with common questions in Joint Council, we have limited our new proposals to the establishment of a small Standing Arbitration Council, on the lines of the present Committee on Production, to deal with cases where the parties have failed to come to an agreement under their ordinary procedure and wish to refer their differences to this Council.

The Whitley Report has received a widespread study throughout the world. It will therefore not be out of place in view of its importance to emphasize the advantages to be secured by its general adoption. This can best be done by quoting from a pamphlet issued by the Industrial Reconstruction Council of London.

(To be continued.)

TO AVOID REVOLUTION

The National American Woman's Suffrage Association at St. Louis, Mo., passed resolutions endorsing the League of Nations and urging the United States Government "to bring about the prompt redress of all legitimate grievances" as a safeguard against revolution by violence.



—Brown in the Chicago Daily News.
THE SMOKE OF BOLSHEVISM TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD.

The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada

Its Only Aim Is The Welfare of The Masses.
Join Now.

The people of a nation cannot advance beyond the men who make its laws, and the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada exists to see to it that the workers by hand and brain are directly represented in the law-making bodies of the Dominion; to find, train and elect the right men of our own class in order to secure the kind of legislation that will protect and advance the interests of the workers.

It will wage warfare on plutocracy, despotism, economic privileges, and upon all the evil forces which burden the people and rob them of that happiness of living which is their fundamental right.

It is a non-partisan educational and political association, and because of the manner in which it is organized can never become the instrument or plaything of a small group of any class, particularly of wealthy men. The aim is the attainment of true democracy.

WE PLEDGE OURSELVES:—

To support all municipal, provincial and federal educational plans where the evident purpose is to raise the standard of education in enlightened and progressive ways; to present truthfully and fearlessly through the medium of Fifth Sunday Meetings and our own press, the "Canadian Railroader", the latest and most important political, social and industrial developments;

To advocate the abolition of property qualifications for the franchise or for election to public office; the adoption of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, and of proportional representation in all forms of public government; universal suffrage for both sexes, on the basis of one person, one vote; the transfer of taxes from improvements, and all products of labor, to land values, incomes and inheritances;

To advocate prison reform, including introduction of the honor and segregation systems, and abolition of contract labor; the enactment and rigid enforcement of child labor laws; pensions for mothers with dependent children; regulation of immigration to prevent lowering of industrial, political or social standards; development of the postal savings and parcel post systems; financial and other assistance to farmers through co-operative banks and by other means; government development of co-operative producing and trading associations for the benefit of the consumer;

To advocate extension of workmen's housing schemes and the labor bureau system; provision of technical education for every willing worker, according to his capacities; more effective inspection of buildings, factories, workshops and mines; minimum wages; a rest period of not less than a day and a half per week for every worker; government insurance of workers against sickness, injury and death; maternity benefits and old-age pensions; better Workmen's Compensation Acts; representation of the workers on all public boards and on boards for the supervision of private enterprises; union labor conditions in all government work; adequate pensions and opportunities for soldiers and their dependents;

To advocate freedom of speech and of the press, and a law compelling all newspapers and periodicals to publish in all issues a complete list of shareholders and bondholders.

FINANCED BY MEMBERS

"The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada" is financed entirely by its members who contribute \$2 a year in membership fees. If a local has been established in your city \$1 remains in the local treasury and the other dollar is sent by the local organization to our Dominion Headquarters, 60 Dandurand Building, Montreal, Que. In case no local has been established in your community, send the membership fee of \$2 directly to Dominion Headquarters.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Secretary,
The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada,
General Headquarters, 65 Dandurand Building,
MONTREAL, QUE.

I hereby make application for membership in "The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada." I subscribe and agree to pay, while a member, the yearly fee of \$2.00 in advance.

Name.....

Amount paid \$..... Address.....

Date..... City.....

Province.....

Make all cheques and money orders payable to "The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada." Official membership card will be mailed from headquarters, with copy of platform, constitution and general rules.

HOW THE FUNDS WILL BE USED

The funds accumulating in the Dominion Headquarters are used for political and educational propaganda; the development of the organization; the preparation of pamphlets and leaflets and the financing of the various political campaigns where favorable opportunities develop, to elect our candidates. The treasurer is under bond and the books are audited by a firm of accountants.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

An application blank will be found below. Merely fill out the application blank, buy a postal order for \$2 and send it to Dominion Headquarters. Your membership card will be forwarded by return mail. Join this great organization in the interests of education and clean politics. Today is the day and this is the hour. Become a member now.

THE EDINBURGH PATRIOTIC CLUB

Work done for the Canadian Red Cross Society totalled 35,897 articles.

In addition to this the Club expended \$5,547.17 in patriotic and charitable work, including donations to various charitable organizations for relief of the city's poor; Duchess of Connaught's Hospital; Gazette Tobacco Fund; Khaki Convalescent Home; McGill Base Hospital; Prisoners of War Fund; Serbian Relief; Halifax Relief; Victorian Order of Nurses; Influenza Epidemic.

With the close of the war, the many associations devoted to patriotic work, especially those connected with the Canadian Red Cross Society, have necessarily been disbanded. It is questionable, however, if the disinterested laborers of those patriotic workers have received the public recognition they deserve.

We have recently been furnished with the final statement of the Edinburgh Patriotic Club, an association organized by the Misses Louttit of the Edinburgh cafe and six other women on September 14th, 1914, under the convenership of Miss Annie Louttit.

The objects of the Club were to provide comforts for members of the Allied Armies, and to aid in relieving distress arising through the war.

The money necessary to purchase the first supplies was contributed by the members in addition to the entrance fee of fifty cents.

The Work Committee's report shows a total of 2,891 woollen articles, made and donated by the Club, to various battalions, and to the Canadian Red Cross Society.

Donations including sheets, blankets, pyjamas, pillow slips, towels, and hussifs, totalled 1,888 articles.

The success of the Club was unquestionably due to the energy and munificence of the President and her equally great-hearted sisters. They gratuitously supplied the comfortable and commodious Club Rooms, and their assembly and dining rooms were always at the disposition of the Club for their many social gatherings and the entertainments necessary for the augmentation of the Club's funds.

We are pleased to have the opportunity of bringing these facts to public notice and of expressing our appreciation for the disinterested labors of the President and members of the Edinburgh Patriotic Club.

ROBERT W. HUNT, President.

C. WARNOCK, General Manager and Treasurer.

THOMAS C. IRVING, Jr., Vice-President.

JAMES W. MOFFAT, Secretary.

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EDITORIALS

GEORGE PIERCE - EDITOR

A Living Wage Or Vice--Which?

MUCH has been written on the vice question in Montreal. In a recent editorial one of our most important daily papers expressed the opinion that the proper way to attack the situation was to make war upon the white slavers. Other important bodies favor suppression by closing such institutions through constant raiding. Generally speaking the contributing causes are supposed to be the police, the bench, the law, the lack of reformative institutions, the lack of proper recreational facilities for young women, the movies, the dance hall, the prevailing immodesty of female attire and the want of a civic conscience. The cigarette, drink and the drug habit are also held responsible.

No doubt each of the causes enumerated contributes its quota to the great human cesspool of misery, yet the daughters of the wealthy smoke their perfumed cigarettes in elaborate public cafes, they drink the highest of wines, and bediamonded fingers hold the crimson glass high where all may see; they roll by in luxurious cars; with shoulders bare they recline in their boxes at the theatre and they are beautiful to look upon, if we have any appreciation for nature. They view the performance of scantily attired niads of the stage and discuss their physical attributes with risk and daring, they meander into the picture shows to while away the afternoon, they motor out under the stars during the hours of the moon's sweetest enchantment, they dance the latest dances to the bewitching air of fussy fox trots and dreamy waltzes and yet the movie, drink, the cigarette, the dance hall, etc., are supposed to be the real causes of prostitution.

How is it that among the god-forgotten, the poor, painted, desolate derelicts of life, we never, never, never find the daughters of the rich. The answer is very simple. The real cause of prostitution is poverty. The under nourished, the naked, the hungry, the miserable — these are the victims. The movie show, the dance hall, the cigarette do not lure the rich woman into the red light district nor do they entice the poor woman. Let us brush aside all subterfuge. They are simply alibis for the real culprit.

The real criminal is the bewhiskered, silk hatted suave employer with an armorplate conscience who pays his employees starvation wages — the gentleman who frequently writes his cheque for well advertised charities and benefactions and then calmly sits down upon the back of his undernourished and despairing employees for the rest of a "perfect day".

If you question the fairness of the charge we make, then ask one of these flourishing nabobs if he can elaborate a method or devise a plan whereby a healthy young girl of sixteen can exist on the munificent salary of five or six dollars a week. Here is the crux of the whole situation. The working woman of the city of Montreal is underpaid and underpaid to such a degree that she cannot secure for herself the very essentials of life — food, clothing and shelter.

Remember the white slaver never captures a rich woman. Bear in mind that our fashions are designed by men who cater to the wants of the wealthy. If the dresses, if the costumes appear immodest, please reflect that the designer is catering to your whims. You ladies of leisure who rustle in the silks of life, you who have a fondness for the little glass of wine, you who brush aside the conventionalities and whiff the naughty little cigarette, you who dance, you who are but children playing, if you really wish to help your poorer sisters, and we know you do, bring home to your rich and powerful husbands this one fact, that any woman

will be moral, will be good and will reject all advances that come from the underworld provided your husbands will give her a living wage. Without wages that will ensure food, clothing and shelter to the young girls of our City, you may throw open all the temples of worship, you may pray from morning until night, you may finance committee after committee, you may issue pamphlets by the million, you may hire the most expensive preachers that Christendom affords, you may screech and roar, rave and shriek, scream and rant and gnash your teeth, but prostitution with its paint, and its running sores will grin in at your window and make mockery of your slumbers. You are not immune. Perhaps it cannot lay its putrid hand upon your fairheaded daughter but it can grip your baby boy and tear his bones asunder.

So away! We have no time for camouflage, we have no time nor humor, for skilful alibis. The living wage and no other plan can offer the solution.

And now we come to the question of the public conscience. By whose order we do not know and we do not care, but it is sufficient unto the fact that on Christmas eve when the world was making merry, when the wine was flowing, when the candles were lit upon the evergreens, when the little children were about your knees, when the bells were ringing, when hearts were thrilled and eyes dimmed with the great loveliness of life — on the night when Christianity was born, there were hundreds of forgotten, tempest torn, lowly souls who had been battered about in the grim storms of life — daughters of the poor who had covered the scratches and the rents made by the claws of vicious men and painted it over with the powder and the rouge and the red light of their unhappy environment, they were trying to forget, to forget old faces and kind voices that were stilled — they were arrested. About them were the derelicts, weary and wayworn, the only friends that modern society could vomit up for them. In their caves far away from our sensitive nostrils, in their own way and according to their means they were trying to forget, they were trying to forget us and the things that we had done to them. And then out of the night there came waggon after waggon. We dragged them out of their holes, we piled them one upon the other, we dragged them through the streets, we leered, we jeered, we gibed them — on Christmas night. On they went, through the pack — hundreds upon hundreds of men, with their teeth bare at the sight, wolves of the pack. Not a word of compassion, not a heart throb. The utter desolation, the degradation, the terrible depravity, the injustice and the unspeakable brutality of the mob is beyond the forgiveness that can be asked in a prayer. We were infinitely sorry and abjectly penitent, for what man is there who has not run with the pack. To make what reparation we can, we shall fight from now on for a living wage for every poor man's child.

THE GREAT AWAKENING

"**T**HERE has been a great awakening of the masses. The people are aroused as never before in the world's history". So spoke a prominent labor leader in conversation with one of the leading and most influential business men in Canada. "Quite so", was the answer, "still they've been awake before and gone back to sleep again". We will admit that they have been awake but we cannot concede that they are about to doze away into convenient slumber again. When the situation is analyzed it will be admitted that there is some basis for our contention. The mass of the people are inarticulate. There is no system of intercommunication which the people control. The only

source of knowledge is the press and the press, to put it mildly and politely, has not always told the truth.

Until the outbreak of the war newspapers had considerable influence and following among the people. The majority of readers usually discounted the news published, making ample allowances for the private influences which were intertwined with the press but there remained still a limited faith in the reliability of the general news published.

During the war, newspaperdom, as did all other activities of the nation, worked under tremendous pressure to enthuse and organize the militant spirit among the people. The German State was laid bare to the bone, the lies of German editors were exposed word for word, all of the ramifications between church and state and factory, and money, all their tricks, all their subterfuges, all their cunning, all their baseness, all their perfidy, was nipped wide open and exposed to the public gaze. Millions of tons of paper were used, the best writers were employed, the keenest editors worked overtime to educate the people to the perfidious performances of the press of the Central Powers.

Of course the publications located in the Central Powers were busily engaged in exactly the same performance. The truth was bandied about like a football on a college gridiron. During this display of journalistic pyrotechnics the common people began to sit up and take notice. In our anxiety to fully expose the depravity of the enemy press the fact was somehow overlooked that the public was making a calm, careful comparison and the effect has been a "Great awakening". The average newspaper reader to-day can look right through his two or three cents worth of newsprint and tell you just what brand of cigar the editor is smoking. The people are wide awake and the man who tries to fool them will discover that the world is full of somnambulists.

The Mining Industry in Britain

CHANGES and PROPOSALS

There has been and is still sitting in Great Britain, a very important commission presided over by Mr. Justice Sankey, which is investigating the coal industry and the variety of problems connected with it. On the Sankey commission, all classes are represented and the case of the Miners' Federation has been powerfully represented. In the end most of the miner's demands as to wages and hours were conceded but the question of the future management of the mines is still under consideration by the commission. However, ten out of the thirteen members of the commission are agreed in recommending a complete change of ownership and control. The mine owners representatives want a sort of national trust, in which they will retain great control. Mr. Sidney Webb and his Fabian friends desire state socialism, but perhaps the most interesting proposals were those of Mr. Straker, made on behalf of the Guild Socialist School of Thought. These proposals are now summarized below.

"As a first practical step to satisfy the larger demand and to place the administration of the industry, nationally and locally, on sound business lines, so that the interest of the miners and the community may be fully safeguarded", said the witness, "I beg to suggest the following provisions":

(1) There shall be established on the appointed day a Mining Council of ten members, five of whose mem-

bers shall be appointed by the Minister for Mines, of which two shall especially be appointed to represent the interests of consumers, and five by the association known as the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.

(2) The Minister of Mines shall be chairman and an ex-official member of the Mining Council.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Act, it shall be lawful for the Mining Council, on behalf of the Minister for Mines, to open and work coal mines and win and deal with minerals and generally to carry on the industry of coal mining and distributing and vending, together with all other industries carried on in connection therewith. Provided that it shall not be lawful for the Minister for Mines or the Mining Council to lease any mine or minerals to any person, association or corporation.

(4) The Minister for Mines may compulsorily purchase land or acquire such rights over land as he may require for the purpose of this Act, and shall have, with regard to the compulsory purchase of land, all the powers of purchasers acting under the Lands Clauses Act, 1843, and the Lands Clauses Consolidation (Scotland) Act, 1845.

(5) For the purpose of this section the Mining Council, on behalf of the Minister for Mines may, from time to time, in such manner and on such terms as they think fit:

(a) Appoint managers, engineers,

agents, clerks, workmen, servants and other persons, and

(b) Construct, erect or purchase, lease or otherwise acquire, building plant, machinery, railways, tramways, hulks, ships, and other fixed or movable appliances or works of any description, and sell or otherwise dispose of the same when no longer required, and

(c) Sell, supply, and deliver coal and other products the result of coal mining operations, either within or without the realm, and

(d) Enter into and enforce contracts and engagements; and

(e) Generally do anything that the owner of a coal mine might lawfully do in the working of the mine or that is authorized by regulations under this Act or by this Act; and

(f) Employ agents, including local authorities or trade unions, for any purpose they may think necessary to carry out their duties under this Act, on such terms as may be mutually agreed.

(6) In addition to the powers conferred on the Mining Council on behalf of the Minister for Mines by the last preceding sub-section, the Council may, in such manner as they think fit, work any railway, tramway, hulk, ship or other appliance for the purpose of winning, supplying and delivering coal.

(7) The members of the Mining Council shall be appointed for five years, but shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(8) The Minister for Mines shall, for the purpose of the carrying on and development of the mining industry, divide the United Kingdom into districts, and shall, in each district, constitute a district mining council of ten members, half of which shall be appointed by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.

(9) The Mining Council may delegate to any district mining council such of their powers under this Act as may conveniently be exercised locally and the district mining council shall, upon such delegation, have and exercise within their district all the powers and duties of the Mining Council as may be delegated to them.

(10) A district mining council shall, subject to the approval of the Mining Council, have power within their area to appoint pit committees for each mine or group of mines, composed of ten members, half of which shall be members of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, and nominated by the workers of the mine or groups of mines aforesaid, and the district mining council may delegate to such pit council such of their powers concerning the immediate working or

management of a particular mine or group of mines as the district mining council may, subject to the approval of the Mining Council think fit.

(11) The members of district mining councils shall be appointed for three years, but shall be eligible for re-appointment, and the members of pit councils shall be appointed for one year, but shall be eligible for re-appointment.

The witness, in conclusion, said: "In laying this case for nationalization of mines and minerals before you, I have made no attempt to cover the whole ground; I have merely touched what I regard as the principal points, and dealt with it on broad lines. All the details to give effect to the principle of nationalization, which we ask the Commission to recommend and the Government to accept, will have to be wrought out and embodied in an Act of Parliament".

THE OBSOLETE SALUTE

[Saluting in the streets is a thing of the past.]

How smart it was! The sudden jab
Of whirling hand, the click of boot
With heel on heel, the glance
astute

To blue or green or scarlet tab!
The finger-tips appeared to stab
The eyes that right (or left)
would shoot;
For discipline was simply ab-
solute!

But Tommy's tiring of his job,
And daily in the crowded street
He turns aside if he should meet,
Perchance, some high brass-hatted
nob,
Since he's beginning to demob.
His sense of freedom is complete;
So discipline is simply ob-
solete!

Money still talks, but contact
with the high cost of living seems
to have given it throat trouble.
—Arkansas Gazette.



"Oh, golly! A fine chance the world has got for universal peace with a thing like this in our house!"

The WOMAN'S FORUM

Rose Henderson BLIND TO EVERYTHING - BUT THE TRUTH

THE LAW IS AN ASS, SAID A JUDGE IN RENDERING HIS DECISION RECENTLY

"Well", commented Acting Chief Justice Archibald, sitting at Montreal in review, with Justice Mercier and Monet, recently, "the effect of the judgment just handed down by this court is that we authorize the defendant husband to beat his wife if he so desires or to take a woman of ill repute into his house to live with him and his wife. That's all I have to say!"

This acrid remark of the distinguished judge was called forth by a majority decision of the court in a case brought by a woman, who sought to obtain a separation from her husband. The wife alleged among other things grave misconduct, and threatening to kill, so that life had become a hell on earth. However, in spite of all proof, the decision was against her; there was nothing left for her to do but to return to her lord and master if he would so permit, or go where she pleased, if he decided otherwise.

LICENSE FOR MEN.

If women were not reminded of these facts once in a while they would not believe these laws permitting men every liberty and license so far as their treatment of their women were concerned. Fortunately for the family, the majority of men have evolved far above the limits accorded them by legal enactments. If they behave as the law allows them what brutes they could be and what abject slaves women and children would be! The difference between the rights of men, especially the rights of parents, are far too conciliatory to men. In fact, according to law, the father is the parent. He doesn't possess quite the power of life and death over his family as of old, but he who holds the purse strings and the deciding voice in the ownership and control of wife and children holds nearly everything. He undoubtedly holds the reins and can whip up or slow down the family chariot at will.

A few days ago, I had need to summarize these laws. It was not a complete summary by any means, but sufficient to stir the imagination if not the ire of most women and every broad minded man to protest. Here are these laws. I will leave the reader to judge whether they do credit to the intelligence of the legal profession, or the chivalry of the "natural protectors" of women.

The husband can sell the prop-

erty accumulated by both parties without his wife's consent, and need give her only a very meagre allowance if he so chooses.

WHAT THE LAW ALLOWS.

A girl of 12 years can marry if her father consents, irrespective of the mother's wishes.

If a wife leaves her husband, he has a right to compel her, by force, to return to him.

In cases of separation the father has legal right to the children, unless the court orders otherwise.

A wife cannot borrow money to get her husband out of jail, or to establish her children in business.

The father has sole authority in the education and disposal of the child, although the mother is equally responsible with the father for its maintenance.

A wife inherits nothing from her husband if he makes no will.

No surgeon may perform an operation on a woman or minor child without the authorization of the husband or father, even to save life.

A wife cannot take legal action, dispose of her legal property, take a gift of property, or go into trade, without her husband's consent.

If husband and wife are judicially separated, the wife cannot sell her property without her husband's consent.

If no marriage contract exists, the husband has complete administration of his wife's property, and can collect her wages.

A woman, though separated from her husband, and separate as to property, cannot sell it without his consent.

A man may secure a *separation de corps* because of his wife's adultery; it is necessary, before the wife can procure the same, that the husband keep his concubine in their common habitation.

GREATER INJUSTICE.

These laws are unjust, all thinking people will admit, but still greater injustice exists in the law relating to young girls. With these I shall deal in a later issue.

The civil code of the Province of Quebec dates back to 1867 and is based on the Napoleonic code of 1804, which took its code from French sources, which in turn were based on the code formulated by Justus Caesar, Emperor of Rome of the 4th century, and at a time when women were classed with goods and

chattels, oxen, asses, barns, farms, household stuff and so forth, and have undergone little if any change in the interval.

Education, religion, industry, politics and science have all progressed and gone forward, but "His Majesty the Law" still waddles around in the rags of past centuries.

May this not be the psychological moment for women to look more closely into the laws which are so antiquated, absurd and out of date. Men of high and low degree are not only holding out the olive branch to women but eulogizing them in season and out. To listen to some of these orators one would imagine women had suddenly taken to themselves wings but they haven't... they are still human, very much so. There is little of the angelic about them, consequently they are very much in need of the laws which affect their earthly surroundings being remodelled.

KICKED FOOTBOARD.

Women have kicked the footboard out of their cradle. They have relegated the spinning wheel to the attic where grandmother keeps other old relics of a bygone age. They have put away the broom and floor cloth for the electric sweeper and patent mop; they carry resolutions, timely and progressive, to their meetings instead of recipes for colic, soothing syrups and sundry other things. Not because they are not still interested in teething, colic and cooking, but because such things can be discussed over the phone. Meeting day has become a red-letter day and is for something more important than former trivialities.

Women stand side by side with men in every profession in the arts, sciences and industries, but they have not yet succeeded in changing the laws which bear so heavily and bring such misery to thousands of helpless women and children.

These laws are old, moth-eaten and musty. The book shelves of our law courts need overhauling and house cleaning. Men were never good at house cleaning. Women must go in and take a hand in cleaning out the legal refuse of the dark and dim past. This suggestion, I know, will horrify some of our good and sincere law-makers who say: "The laws cannot be changed. They are on our books and we must not touch them. They were made by great men."

In the light of modern knowledge and human needs are the foregoing laws either just, reasonable or common sense? Are women not half of humanity and mother of the other half? Are they not as much or more interested in the welfare of home and children as men are? Do they

not suffer and sacrifice most of the family? Every injustice to woman must eventually find its echo in the heart of the race. Men cannot be free while women are bound. Why give men greater protection under the law; why not protect both equally?

"Let us consider the reason of the case, for nothing is law that is not reason. Reason is the life of law, nay the common law itself is nothing else but reason".

One of the greatest injustices to women quite condoned by the law is the fact that when raids are made by the police upon disorderly houses appended to the warrants is a signed order issued by the magistrate giving the men found in these houses the privilege of being released on a ten dollar cash bail. Needless to say these men are not foolish enough to give their right names or addresses and rarely if ever turn up to claim their ten dollars.

What an added slur and injustice to women by which divine right are men permitted to escape their share of the blame, shame and punishment particularly since men are supposed to be the "Natural Protectors" of women and "stronger and more logical sex". Where is the protection, where is the strength and pray where is the logic? Protection for one publicity. Shame and punishment for the other.

THE WOMEN IN SCOTLAND.

A comprehensive study of the problem of industrial housing stand forth as the chief work of the Scottish Women's Trade Council. During the year 1918, according to its annual report just published, representatives of the Council secured material from social workers, representatives of working women's society, officials of corporations and other public bodies. The basis of the data accumulated demanded that all houses should contain properly-equipped kitchens, washing facilities, bath and plenty of hot water, central heating equipment, up-to-date ventilation and sanitary accommodation, open air spaces and children's playgrounds and the public cleaning of closets, stairs, courts, and playgrounds by organized corps of workers.

Good for the working women of Scotland! What's the matter with the working women of Montreal taking a lesson from their sisters in Scotland? No city needs greater activity on the part of women than Montreal.

The Stuff Revolutions Are Made Of

"I'm watching... watching dai-," said a young mother "for something to happen. It's going to happen, it will happen when the last expected". "What do you mean?", said a wrinkled shabby little woman beside her, "what's going to happen".

"Why don't you know, don't you feel at coming, don't you see the injustices everywhere, don't we see how we're oppressed and suffering every place you turn, next door, upstairs, on the streets, on the faces of the men, the children item all. Don't you see the anger growing on your man's face every day, don't you find it harder and harder to feed and clothe the kids, God pity them. Aren't you weary of dirt and poverty and sickness and unemployment... shabby clothes and no clothes at all. Fear of this and fear of that and the wolf always only a few yards from the door. Can you find a house fit to live in without paying an enormous rent to some rich landlord who doesn't care for us poor people. Don't you see how terrible times are for the poor. We want to live and be honest, but we can't. It's all wrong and it must end. It will end, there'll be a revolution, that's what's coming. Depend upon it and that right soon if things won't change".

"I'm tired of poverty, I'm tired of himself out of work and I'm tired living in rickety shacks, not fit for tramps and I'm tired looking at rickety children and every decent woman I talk to is as sick of it as I am".

The woman uttering these sentiments was not a Bolshevik, an anarchist nor a socialist. She probably wouldn't read any of the literature

that was put into her hands, she was just the ordinary type of working man's wife, oppressed, sorely tried and at the moment as she expressed it, "tired and sick of life", but she was more... she had passed through the first process in the making of a revolution. She had ceased to pray to weep, to endure patiently. She was bitter against society, politicians and the big men. She was questioning the worth of the present system, sensible of a great wrong to herself and family and uttering a conscious protest, desirous of a radical change.

The next step will be shorter, she cannot stand still. She will convert many to her way of thinking without knowing it. Her direct simply statements and facts will sink deep and take root and bring forth fruit one day she will find out the causes for her suffering, then will come determine, ledentless and conscious action. Thousands of mothers, good and worthy women such as she will rise up in righteous indignation and bring to account those responsible for their misery and the human chaos now mocking civilization and Christianity.

This is the stuff out of which revolutions are made while our statesmen blunder along asleep, deaf and blind to realities.

LECTURE BY MRS. ROSE HENDERSON

On Sunday, April 20th, at 3.15 p.m., in Stanley Hall, Mrs. Rose Henderson, of the Juvenile Court, will give an illustrated lecture on the tragedy of the slum. The pictures are some of those taken in the city during investigation into the homes of the children who come before the Juvenile Court, and show the bad housing conditions, lack of play spaces, and the causes of juvenile and adult crime.

FIGURES ON NATIONAL DEBT

London.—According to the "Economist", the national debt of Great Britain has risen from £710,500,000 (about \$3,500,000,000) on August 1st, 1914 to £7,491,400,000 (over \$35,000,000,000) in February, 1919. This fact recalls once again the famous dictum of Benjamin Franklin, "Wars are not paid for in war time; the bill comes later."

BRITISH FIGURES ON UNEMPLOYMENT

Recent figures given to the House of Commons by the Ministry of Labor show that the number of persons who have lodged their donation policies at employment exchanges because they are unemployed is 734,000, of whom 254,648 are men, 24,538 boys, 438,114 women, and 26,790 girls. In trades insured against unemployment, the largest numbers of unemployed among men were in the engineering and ironfounding (70,354), building (37,352), and shipbuilding trades (10,972), and among women in engineering and ironfounding (103,443) and in ammunition and explosives (46,837). In trades not insured the largest numbers unemployed are among general laborers and factory workers in the case of men, and among general factory workers, domestic services, the cotton industry, and dress in the case of women.

INDUSTRIAL UNREST

The Spanish labor situation goes from bad to worse. The Labor Federation of Madrid has called a general strike. The railway men have stopped work in various parts of the country. The government has now taken the bold step of mobilizing all employees, who are thus called up for military duties to maintain public order.

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